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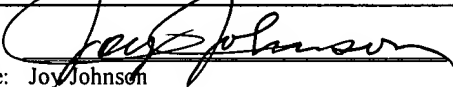
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Group 1641 #5  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	A. Burchell et al.	Examiner:	Not Assigned
Serial No.:	09/972,105	Group Art Unit:	Not Assigned
Filed:	October 4, 2001	Docket:	350013-76
Due Date:	N/A	Date Mailed:	February 5, 2002
Title:	PRENATAL DIAGNOSTIC METHODS		

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 5, 2002.

By:  Name: Joy Johnson
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Honorable Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This document is an Information Disclosure Statement to the above-cited patent application.

Attached hereto is at least one Form PTO-1449 listing documents believed relevant to the subject application. The submission of the following information is not intended, nor should it be construed, to constitute an admission that any patent, article, or other information referred to herein is "prior art" unless specifically designated as such. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) the filing of this information shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information may exist. Neither should its submission be construed to indicate that a thorough search should not be conducted by the Examiner.



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It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, § 1.97, and § 1.98 and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures § 707.05(b). If for some reason the Examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned so that any deficiencies can be remedied.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application. Therefore, no fee is due for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2).

A copy of each document is enclosed. Some of the documents may have markings thereon. No significance is meant to be attached to the markings. These documents are not necessarily analogous art. Additionally, the order of the following documents is to be accorded no particular import as the order thereof is completely fortuitous.

It is respectfully requested that these documents be: (1) fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application; and (2) represented on any patent which may issue on the application. Applicants respectfully request that copies of the PTO-1449 forms, as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next communication.

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PCT Publication No. WO 91/07660 by Bianchi, published May 30, 1991.

PCT Publication No. WO 91/14768 by Simons, published October 3, 1991.

PCT Publication No. WO 93/23754 by Ahlert et al., published November 25, 1993, which discloses a process for the prenatal diagnosis of genetic abnormalities by detecting nucleated erythrocytes with a gradient and magnetic activated cell sorting with anti-CD71 marked cells. The method can be used to detect fetal trisomy or infantile aneuploids using fluorescence in situ hybridization.

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